Dear Esteemed Advisors, Administrators, and WASC Partners,

We have made the very difficult decision today to cancel our SHS and JAM State Conferences this upcoming April.  This has been one of the most difficult decisions we have ever had to make. Many things happened in the last 48 hours to push our decision:

1.  UW Madison closing it's campus through April 10th

2.  Various collegiate/professional sporting team cancellations

3.  Countless other organizations canceling events

4.  State Basketball tournaments canceled

5.  School districts eliminating travel for all students/staff through the end of April and/or closing school completely

6.  The rising health concerns with the COVID-19 Virus

We felt it was in our best interest to not put schools/parents/students in a position to decide whether it was safe or not to attend our conferences.

At this time, our Board of Directors will be meeting on Sunday to determine next steps with the multitude of layers this cancellation creates.  We will also determine if/when there would be a rescheduled event, elections for officers, and financial implications for the WASC.

Most importantly, we are incredibly sad for the schools who served as hosts and our state officers that planned for an entire year and did not get to complete their mission and execute a conference they put their heart and soul into.  We  believe, however, this was the best decision under these circumstances.  We appreciate all the help you offered, your patience with the decision making process, and your support of the students as they grapple with the implications of this decision.  As Director, I am blessed to be a part of an organization filled with educators, partners, and students who understand the importance of leadership and finding grace in the things we can control and those we simply cannot.

**Please make sure to cancel your reservations with no penalty at the various hotels we used.**  Please also thank them for the ability to do so.  Our service industry is getting hit incredibly hard from this crisis.  We are so grateful for their generosity with allowing us to cancel without penalty.  At the State Office, we will be working through the reimbursement process in the upcoming weeks as more decisions are made.

Thank you again for your patience, leadership and support.  Stay healthy!

Michelle McGrath